

DRAFT

Dear Editor:

We are writing to you about an article in the Mississippi Press on April 10, 2007, regarding legislation to divide tax revenues from future expansions at the Chevron Pascagoula Refinery and proposed liquefied natural gas facilities. In the article Pascagoula School Superintendent Wayne Rodolfich was quoted as saying, “It was disappointing that Governor Haley Barbour did not have two minutes to give on the issue.” Mr. Rodolfich goes on to say that Governor Barbour ignored his attempts over a five day period to speak with him in person on the legislation.

As policy advisers to Governor Barbour, it is our job to meet with constituents on his behalf daily, relay information to him, and advise him on important issues. The Governor’s schedule is set well in advance, and as you can imagine there are not enough hours in the day to accommodate every request he receives. Fortunately, the Governor has knowledgeable, competent staff members who often speak with constituents in his stead, and we keep the Governor apprised of those conversations.

The last few days of any legislative session are incredibly hectic. In this instance, however, Mr. Rodolfich effectively communicated his position on the tax revenue issue to the appropriate legislators and policy staff. We communicated multiple times both personally and via telephone with Mr. Rodolfich. We took his information regarding Pascagoula School District's concern, spoke to legislators and other stakeholders, and relayed this information to Governor Barbour. The Governor even spoke with Pascagoula Mayor Matthew Avara and Senator Tommy Robertson, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, about a potential compromise that Mr. Rodolfich ultimately opted not to accept.

We want to stress two things.

- Under the legislation that was passed the Pascagoula School District not only retains funds it now receives, but also gains about one-third of new revenues generated by oil refinery expansions and LNG terminals.
- The Pascagoula School District is an outstanding system. Mr. Rodolfich received the Governor's Award for Perseverance in

2006 for his leadership following Hurricane Katrina. Governor Barbour is proud of the Pascagoula School District's strong reputation and performance.

The Governor expects his staff to keep him well informed and we work very hard to do so. The Governor's unavailability for a requested meeting should never be interpreted as disinterest or unawareness of a situation.

Marie Thomas

Johnny Franklin

Policy Advisers to Governor Barbour

Jackson